

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A purified mammalian HARE, comprising:

a protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, the protein **being** purified to a state capable of being sequenced **homogeneity** and comprising a sequence having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

25-41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) A purified composition, wherein the purified composition comprises a functionally active HARE polypeptide, wherein the functionally active HARE polypeptide is purified to a state capable of being sequenced **homogeneity** and has an amino acid sequence that is at least about 76% identical in sequence to SEQ ID NO:2.

43-87. (Canceled)

88. (Currently Amended) A purified mammalian HARE comprising:  
a protein having a molecular mass in a range of from about 175 kDa to about 190 kDa which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, wherein the HARE protein is purified to ~~a state capable of being sequenced~~ **homogeneity** and comprises a sequence having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.
89. (Canceled)
90. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 24 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.
91. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 24 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.
92. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 24 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

93. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 24 wherein the protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

94. (Canceled)

95. (Previously Added) The purified composition of claim 42 wherein the functionally active HARE polypeptide has an amino acid sequence that is at least about 80% identical in sequence to SEQ ID NO:2.

96. (Previously Added) The purified composition of claim 42 wherein the functionally active HARE polypeptide has an amino acid sequence that is at least about 85% identical in sequence to SEQ ID NO:2.

97. (Previously Added) The purified composition of claim 42 wherein the functionally active HARE polypeptide has an amino acid sequence that is at least about 90% identical in sequence to SEQ ID NO:2.

98. (Previously Added) The purified composition of claim 42 wherein the functionally active HARE polypeptide has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

99. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 88 wherein the protein is able to specifically bind and endocytose at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

100. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 88 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

101. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 88 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

102. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 88 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

103. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 88 wherein the protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

104. (Previously Added) A purified mammalian HARE, comprising:

a protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, the protein being substantially free of other proteins and comprising a sequence having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

105. (Canceled)

106. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 104 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

107. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 104 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

108. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 104 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

109. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 104 wherein the protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

110. (Previously Added) A purified mammalian HARE comprising:

a protein having a molecular mass in a range of from about 175 kDa to about 190 kDa which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, wherein the HARE protein is substantially free of other proteins and comprises a sequence having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

111. (Canceled)

112. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 110 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

113. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 110 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

114. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 110 wherein the protein comprises a sequence having at least about 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

115. (Previously Added) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 110 wherein the protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

116. (Previously Added) A mammalian HARE, comprising:

a recombinant protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, the recombinant protein comprising a sequence having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

117. (Previously Added) The mammalian HARE of claim 116 wherein the recombinant protein is able to specifically bind and endocytose at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

118. (Previously Added) The mammalian HARE of claim 116 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

119. (Previously Added) The mammalian HARE of claim 116 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

120. (Previously Added) The mammalian HARE of claim 116 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

121. (Previously Added) The mammalian HARE of claim 116 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

122. (Previously Added) A mammalian HARE comprising:

a recombinant protein having a molecular mass in a range of from about 175 kDa to about 190 kDa which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

123. (Previously Added) The mammalian HARE of claim 122 wherein the recombinant protein is able to specifically bind and endocytose at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

124. (Previously Added) The mammalian HARE of claim 122 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.



125. (Previously Added) The mammalian HARE of claim 122 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

126. (Previously Added) The mammalian HARE of claim 122 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

127. (Previously Added) The mammalian HARE of claim 122 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

128. (Previously Added) A recombinant mammalian HARE protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, the recombinant mammalian HARE protein produced by a process comprising the steps of:

providing a recombinant host cell comprising a vector containing a recombinant DNA segment encoding a mammalian HARE protein comprising a sequence having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2;

culturing the recombinant host cell under conditions that will allow for expression of the recombinant DNA segment, thereby producing

the recombinant mammalian HARE protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

129. (Previously Added) The recombinant mammalian HARE protein of claim 128 wherein the protein has a molecular mass in a range of from about 175 kDa to about 190 kDa.

130. (Previously Added) The recombinant mammalian HARE of claim 128 wherein the recombinant protein is able to specifically bind and endocytose at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

131. (Previously Added) The recombinant mammalian HARE of claim 128 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

132. (Previously Added) The recombinant mammalian HARE of claim 128 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

133. (Previously Added) The recombinant mammalian HARE of claim 128 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence having at least about 90% identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

134. (Previously Added) The recombinant mammalian HARE of claim 128 wherein the recombinant protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

135. (New) A purified mammalian HARE, comprising:

a protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, the protein being purified to homogeneity and comprising a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

136. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 135 wherein the protein has a molecular mass in a range of from about 175 kDa to about 190 kDa.

137. (New) A purified mammalian HARE, comprising:

a protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, the protein being substantially free of other proteins and comprising a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

138. (New) The purified mammalian HARE of claim 137 wherein the protein has a molecular mass in a range of from about 175 kDa to about 190 kDa.

139. (New) A method of producing recombinant mammalian HARE protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a recombinant host cell comprising a vector containing a recombinant DNA segment encoding a mammalian HARE protein comprising a sequence having at least about 76% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2;

culturing the recombinant host cell under conditions that will allow for expression of the recombinant DNA segment, thereby producing the recombinant mammalian HARE protein which is able to specifically bind at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

140. (New) The method of claim 139 wherein the recombinant mammalian HARE protein has a molecular mass in a range of from about 175 kDa to about 190 kDa.

141. (New) The method of claim 139 wherein the recombinant mammalian HARE protein is able to specifically bind and endocytose at least one of HA, chondroitin and chondroitin sulfate.

142. (New) The method of claim 139 wherein the recombinant mammalian HARE protein comprises a sequence having at least about 80% identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

143. (New) The method of claim 139 wherein the recombinant mammalian HARE protein comprises a sequence having at least about 85% identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

144. (New) The method of claim 139 wherein the recombinant mammalian HARE protein comprises a sequence having at least about 90% identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

145. (New) The method of claim 139 wherein the recombinant mammalian HARE protein comprises a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.